Course Description:
The purpose of this class is to undertake a historical and analytical examination of U.S. Foreign Policy since World War II. The course is divided into three main topics. First, we will discuss the history of U.S. Foreign Policy since World War II. We will examine topics such as how current U.S. policy has evolved and what was the impetus behind our important foreign policy choices. The second part of the class will examine the institutions and processes that guide foreign policy formation and implementation. Questions will revolve around who are the important people setting the foreign policy agenda and what are the important institutions attempting to implement this agenda. Finally, the last third of the course will review some of the more salient foreign policy challenges facing the U.S. as we enter the 21st century. Some of these issues include whether US foreign aid policy is effective, how the recent global economic crises will influence foreign policy, and whether U.S. foreign policy towards Africa is undergoing significant change.

MODULE 1: The Context of American Foreign Policy

Module 1 Objectives:
- Familiarity with key historical figures in American foreign policy.
- Knowledge of how domestic and international institutions were shaped by important historical events.
- Knowledge of how historical memory continues to shape American foreign policy.

Module 1.1 [2 lectures]
Introduction: The international and domestic context in American Foreign Policy


Module 1.2 [2 lectures]
The Historical Context of American Foreign Policy


MODULE 2: The formal institutions of American Foreign Policy

Module 2 Objectives:
- Knowledge of official roles of executive and legislative branch agencies involved in the planning and execution of foreign policy.
- Familiarity with the evolution of the balance of power between institutions making foreign policy.
- Ability to identify institutional interests of actors involved in making foreign policy.

Module 2.1 [1 lecture]
Presidential Power: Institutional Roots


ASSIGNMENT 1: Courts in American Foreign Policy

Module 2.2 [1 lecture]
Presidential Power: NSC & Presidential Management


Module 2.3 [1 lecture]
Congress: Check or Empty Vessel?
Norman F. Ornstein and Thomas E. Mann, “When Congress Checks Out,” Foreign Affairs,
November/December 2006.


ASSIGNMENT 2: A New War Powers Act?

**Module 2.4 [1 lecture]**

*State Department: Directing Foreign Policy or Playing Second Fiddle?*


**Module 2.5 [1 lecture]**

*Department of Defense: Ahead or Behind the RMA?*


**Module 2.6 [1 lecture]**

*Department of Defense: Civil-Military Relations*


**Module 2.7 [1 lecture]**

*The Intelligence Community: Still in Need of Reform?*


**Module 2.8 [1 lecture]**

*Foreign Economic Policy: Partners with Security or Still Second Fiddle?*


**Module 2.9 [2 lectures]**

*Putting it together: Models of Decision-making and the Cuban Missile Crisis*


**ASSIGNMENT 3:** Applying Allison’s models
Module 3: Informal Institutions in American Foreign Policy

Module 3 Objectives:
- Familiarity with “societal” inputs into American foreign policy.
- Knowledge of how actors in government take account of input from informal institutions.

Module 3.1 [1 lecture]
Public opinion: Map Quiz Anyone?


Module 3.2 [1 lecture]
Interest Groups: Much Ado About Nothing?


http://www.cfr.org/publication/6429/getting_uncle_sams_ear.html


ASSIGNMENT 4: Lobbying in American Foreign Policy

Module 3.3 [1 lecture]
Media: Agenda Setter or Conduit?


Howell & Pevehouse, While Dangers Gather: Chapter 6.

**MODULE 4: Current Issues in American Foreign Policy**

Module 4 Objectives:
- Knowledge of contemporary controversies in American foreign policy.
- Ability to tie together knowledge of how actors in political institutions plan and execute foreign policy with international factors that constrain choices abroad.
- Application of analytical models of foreign policy-making to key recent foreign policy events.

**Module 4.1 [1 lecture]**

*The Arab Spring: Seismic Shift in American Foreign Policy?*


**Module 4.2 [1 lecture]**

*Iran: Will the Shah Hit the Fan?*


James M. Lindsay and Ray Takeyh, “After Iran Gets the Bomb,” Foreign Affairs, Mar/Apr 2010.

**ASSIGNMENT 5: U.S. Foreign Policy & the Middle East**

**Module 4.3 [1 lecture]**

*Terrorism and Counter-terrorism*


**Module 4.4 [1 lecture]**

*Foreign Aid: Millennium Challenge and Beyond*


Jadish Bhagwati, “Banned Aid.” *Foreign Affairs*, Jan. 2010


**Module 4.5 [1 lecture]**

*Africa: Does the US Finally Care?*


**Module 4.6 [1 lecture]**

*China: Rising Threat or Satiated Giant?*


**Module 4.7 [1 lecture]**

*Globalization and The Great Recession*


